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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

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WAY. TRUTH. LIFE.

"I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life."—JOHN xiv 6.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

An Eastern salutation of Teacher by the pupil, is "Thou art the Path"! "I am the Way" replies the Teacher. A precept is: "Thou canst not travel on that Path, before thou hast become that Path itself." The Teacher is to the pupil, the outer embodiment of the path the pupil must find within himself.

* * *

With reference to "The Child's Guide" the stock of which is now exhausted, we are informed that what was produced to be sold at ½d a copy, could not now be done at less than 2d. We have nothing to say to bringing out a revised version or a new manual; it was a re-print of the old edition, we asked for.

* * *

The Editor announced at the General Purposes Committee of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on January 19th, that he would not continue the office after the meeting of Synod in June; that he had intended giving up at the end of the year; but decided to continue until the annual meetings.

* * *

Our policy has been to uphold the principles of Liberal Christianity and Non-Subscribing Presbyterianism.

* * *

The date of the Annual Public Service in the Ulster Hall, under the auspices of the Men's League and the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, has been altered to May instead of November. The Rev. Herbert Barnes of Newcastle will be the preacher. We hope that our friends in the South of Ireland will be represented on that interesting occasion, and that later on at the Synod they will take a very prominent part in the proceedings.

* * *

Though a strong appeal was made in the January issue to keep up the numbers, notwithstanding decreases here and there, there have been increases in other quarters. York Street congregation has set a noble example in getting rid of every copy on the first Sunday. At the Depository in January the bundle on the counter rapidly diminished and a new supply had to be obtained.

* * *

We are grateful for the words of appreciation and encouragement which friends have so heartily given.

* * *

In Masonry—The Rev. John Barron is Worshipful Master of Shamrock Masonic Lodge, Kircubbin, for 1937. The Rev. J. A. Kelly is one of the Chaplains of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; and the Rev. W. H. T. Tilson, M.A., has been made Grand Chaplain for the Province of Down.

* * *

"The Radio Times" of Jan. 8th, 1937, gave a picture of Mr Albert Taylor, playing the organ in the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast. The photograph must have been taken from the gallery.

* * *

The Twelfth International Congress of *Free Christians* and other Religious Liberals, of which the Rev. Dr. Alfred Hally, Sheffield, is the President, meets at Manchester College, Oxford, on August 3rd - 8th. General Theme: "Liberal Christianity the World's Need." Sections: Theological, Ecclesiological, Educational, Social.

Ministers' Conference—The 305th meeting was held on January 4th, 1937, at the "Carlton," Donegall Place, Belfast, the host being the Rev. J A. Kelly of Dunmurry. The topic of discussion was the right of the Presbyter to be the President of his congregation, as laid down in I. Tim v. 17, (Dr. Moffatt's translation) and as a fundamental principle of Presbyterian Church Government. The Right Rev. the Moderator was present and gave an account of the signing of the Proclamation of King George VI. at Stormont, at which he was present with the other heads of the churches in Belfast. Dr. Agnew described a valuable adjunct in conducting his afternoon meetings on Sunday in York St. Lecture Hall, in the form of a mechanism of green, yellow and red lights and a motor-horn, which has proved effective in keeping speakers to the time limit. The mechanism was not in use at this meeting.

* * *

Whether or not God is a Trinity, man is a trinity—body, soul and spirit.

* * *

Kildonan—Dr. A. M. McTosh's Experience—The author of this story vouches for the facts, though for obvious reasons names of persons and places have been altered. [ED]

* * *

A Bishop, evidently of the high Anglican school, was conversing with a Congregational minister, and remarked "I can treat you as a gentleman; but, I regret I cannot treat you as a clergyman;" to which the reply was promptly made. "And I can treat you as a clergyman; but, I regret I cannot treat you as a gentleman."

* * *

Banbridge—In spite of absentees through sickness, chiefly the prevailing flu, a well attended and most enjoyable Annual Sunday School Party was held in the Dunbar Memorial Schoolroom. Rollicking party games were played before and after tea. The cakes and buns very quickly vanished while many hands helped in the service, and the ladies responsible are particularly to be congratulated on the excellence of the tea itself. Then followed the distribution of the Prizes won by the Sunday School scholars, members of the Bible Class and the League of Loyalty. A very faithful servant of the Church, who at one time had been a Sunday School scholar herself, but now a teacher and the superintendent, not to mention a most valuable member of the Choir, and useful at the organ, Miss McKeown, honoured us by graciously presenting these prizes. The two most conspicuous winning scholars were Miss May Derby and Master Cecil Stevenson who were present on every occasion the School met during 1936. Master Cecil it should be mentioned lives the furthest from the Church. What an example to all!

And the Father Christmas complete in long red robe and hood bordered with cotton wool, he came from cold regions, and mistleto! He distributed about a hundred gifts to the pleasurable enjoyment of all, old and young. Mr. Gordon, a very willing worker at all times, had much to do with this distribution.

Then more games, and so one of our most happiest of gatherings came to an end at last with the Benediction and God Save the King.

* * *

Holywood—On Sunday evening, 27th Dec., an augmented choir under the direction of the organist (Mr. E. G. Keers) gave a very creditable rendering of selections from "The Messiah," which were much appreciated by a large congregation. The annual social gathering in connection with the Sunday School was held on Friday evening, 8th January. After the children had been given tea, a brief programme was provided by the scholars, including a little play "The Fairy Ring" produced by Mrs. F. A. Robinson, assisted by the Misses S. and E. Meneely. The prizes were given away by Mr. W. J. Harvey, Superintendent of the morning School for 33 years, who congratulated the scholars on their good average attendances. Nineteen of the scholars obtained special prizes for full attendance. Gifts were afterwards distributed to the tiny tots by Father Christmas from a well laden Christmas Tree.

* * *

Ballymoney—This congregation has suffered two very severe losses by the deaths on 11th and 12th January respectively of Mrs. John Pinkerton, of Tulloughgore (a sister-in-law of the late Rev. S. C. Pinkerton of Newry) and her elder sister, Mrs. John Pinkerton, widow of the late Mr. John Pinkerton, formely M.P. for South Galway. Both these ladies had been life-long and loyal members of the Remonstrant Church, and had attended the services regularly while health and strength permitted. Their departure is mourned by a wide circle of friends and relatives. The funerals were to the New Cemetery and the New Church respectively, the Rev. F. Holt officiating.

The Orphan Society—Collectors are requested to begin their work as soon as possible and to send in their completed collections to the Local Treasurer before the 21st March. Local Treasurers will please send their Lists of Subscribers to the Rev. Alfred Turner, "Oakley," Broughshane Road, Ballymena, and their remittance to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. William McRobert, at the Ulster Bank, Waring Street, Belfast. Reports, Collecting Cards, etc., may be had on application personally, or by letter, to the Agent of the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

* * *

Belfast Domestic Mission—Christmas was a busy season at the Mission being duly observed in the customary manner with a number of happy gatherings, while those who were sick were also remembered.

The Hall was brightly festooned and an illuminated Christmas tree on the neat form provided a fitting setting for the festivities.

The members of our branch of the Women's League were entertained by the Ladies of All Souls' Church who spared no effort to provide an enjoyable afternoon. Games, recitations and music filled the hours with joy and laughter. After a hearty tea each member received a little gift through the kindness of the Needlework Guild.

To all those who helped to diffuse happiness by giving of their time and talents on this occasion we extend thanks.

The Children's entertainment is always the central feature of our Christmas functions and this is surely in keeping with its traditional importance as the Children's Festival.

To enhance the value of our party the annual prize distribution has been included, thus the children find an added interest in the event. The children engaged in games until tea was served then followed a varied programme by pupils. Before presenting the rewards Miss Florence Newman our former organist who still takes a deep interest in the Mission, complimented Teachers, Pupils and parents on the success of the year's work. Forty-seven prizes were presented which included, one special for three years unbroken attendance, three specials for perfect attendance in 1936, and twenty-one firsts.

The arrival of Santa Claus was hailed with delight by the children who received from him toys, fruit and toffee.

Hearty vote of thanks to Miss Newman, "Santa" and Teachers brought to a close what all those present found to be the happiest event of the season.

At the Sunday Services emphasis was given to the religious significance of Christmas. Mrs. Sherlock and choir, assisted in the evening by Mr. Strange as soloist, rendered appropriate anthems and carols. On new year's eve choir members and friends met for a social evening when their leader, Mrs. Sherlock, was presented by the Missioner, on behalf of the members, with a little gift as a token of their affection and esteem. W.E.

* * *

All Souls' Church, Belfast—We regret to announce the passing of Miss Agnes M'Master, on December 23rd. She had been a faithful member of All Souls', and although for the last seven years had been an invalid, she never lost her interest in the activities of the Church. The funeral was at Monevrea on Christmas morning, the Minister officiating. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her sister, Miss Elizabeth McMaster.

The Message in the Calendar Pulpit is more especially for the members. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, the church does not depend so much upon the number of members, as upon their faithfulness in attending. The Minister may have all the gifts a minister is expected to possess, but without faithful attendance on the part of the members, he is nothing.

This is my first Ministry, and as the Rev. Nicol Cross said, "it will either make or break me." Please help me to make a success of my Ministry and by making a success of myself—make a success of the Church also.

* * *

Templepatrick—A call sent through the Presbytery of Templepatrick, inviting the Rev. Alexander George Peaston of Huddersfield to become minister of the congregation at Templepatrick, has been accepted. According to the notice declaring the pulpit vacant, the next appointment was to be that of Assistant and Successor to the Rev. Alfred Turner (Emeritus). The Year Book gives the following record: Boston. 1910-19; Stannington, 1920-24; Huddersfield, 1924. The only pulpits, now remaining vacant, are those of Clough and Downpatrick.

* * *

Newry—"The Newry Telegraph" sends a list of Trustees of the Quinn Charity of which the Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., is Clerk. Among the Trustees are the following: Mr. James C. Thompson, Secretary of the Church; Robert J. McComb (Secretary for 29 years); C. Warnock, Treasurer for a great many years.

Dromore—The Historical Notes in Jan. number were sent by D. M. Lindsay, Esq., Mossvale House, Dromore. He found them among some old letters and documents in a drawer, and they were written by his uncle, John Rowan Miniss, J.P., who for many years was Treasurer of the Dromore Congregation. In view of the forthcoming tercentenary (300th anniversary) they are of special interest.

* * *

Mountpottinger—The Annual Sale of Work was held in the Schoolroom on Friday, December 11th. Mrs. David Munn, Cattogs House, Comber, performed the opening ceremony, Mrs. Eustace Thompson of Ballygally taking the chair. We were pleased to see present friends from various Churches in both town and country.

With the help of donations from friends the total nett proceeds amounted to rather over £62 and for this very creditable result the Church Committee wishes to place on record their full appreciation of the efforts of the members of the Women's League and all those friends who contributed towards the success of the effort. E.R.J.

* * *

Downpatrick—Under the auspices of the Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church a company of about 250, on Tuesday night in the Assembly Hall, which was seasonably decorated with holly, evergreens, chrysanthemums and bunting, enjoyed a dance, to the strains of Albert Gray's band. The M.C.'S were Messrs R. G. Chambers, J. Dickson, and M. Stewart, and the catering was by White, of Comber. Novelty dance winners were Mr. C. Rhatigan and Mrs J. G. Nesbitt, and Mr. J. A. McKeown and Miss G. Stewart.

A very enjoyable Sunday S hool Children's Party took place on Friday, 8th inst., in the Assembly Hall, attended by about 40 children and their parents bringing the number to over 60 present—organized by the Teachers, Miss Marie Henry and Miss Mollie Bell, assisted by Mrs. C Stewart, Mrs. T. Hutton, Mrs. H. Dickson, Mrs. H. Cochrane, Mrs. Alex. Hutton, Mrs. J. Newman and the Misses Annie Chambers, Lilian Kelly, Mary Nesbitt and Betty Henry. Rev. Shaw Brown of Clough, accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Brown kindly came over to give assistance and encouragement in the absence of a settled minister—he is at home amongst the young people, radiating a cherry atmosphere which is infectious. A sumptious tea of home-baked provided by the ladies, was heartily enjoyed and games and dancing—and a short programme—Pianoforte Solo—Miss Hutton, Recitations—Florence Lowry, Robert Lowry, Norman Strain; songs, Miss Betty Henry and J. Newman—encores were demanded to all the items. Book Prizes and Bibles were presented by Rev. Brown and were received by the following scholars:—Meta Hutton, Tom Hutton, Olive Dick, Bob Lowry, Betty Henry, Florence Lowry, May Ferris, Mabel Corry, Samuel Robinson, Matthew Robinson, Sam Lowry, Norman Strain, Margaret White, Neville Quinn, Mabel Black, Tom McMullan, Leslie McMullan, Sydney McMullan and Stanley McMullan. Auld Lang Syne and National Anthem brought a happy re-union to a close.

* * *

Ballee.—The Sunday School scholars met on the afternoon of December 30th for one of the jolliest functions of the year — their Christmastide Party and Prize-giving. After a wholesome, ample tea, merriment, fun and frolic were the order of the evening. Prizes were then presented to the scholars by Mr. J. Brown, in the role of Father Christmas. Warm thanks are due to the ladies who superintended the arrangements for tea; to those who organised the games; to Mr. and Mrs. Brown for kindly placing their piano at the disposal of the schools, and to Mr. Brown for his impersonation of Father Christmas as the dispenser of books and toys. A goodly congregation assembled at a service held on the first Sunday evening of the New Year, January 3rd. A Jumble Sale was held in the Schoolroom on the afternoon of January 16th. In addition to stalls of "jumble," there was a successful Cake Stall, and also various sideshows and other attractions. The ladies and gentlemen whose co-operation made the event possible are to be warmly congratulated on the result of their efforts, for the amount realised was over £24, a most creditable sum. Hearty thanks to all concerned. Our cordial congratulations go to Miss Jean Kelly and Mr. Henry Caven on their recent examination successes. Miss Kelly passed the junior certificate examination, and Mr. Caven the final examination of the Society of Incorporated Accountants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Presbyterian Church Government.

To the Editor of the *N-S. Presbyterian.*

SIR,—The Presbyterian System of Church Government which we inherited and to which all our Congregations are pledged is expressly designed to give Laymen a place on absolutely equal terms with Ministers. It makes one exception to this state of affairs. Wisdom and experience have caused it to decree that Ministers shall be chairmen of their own Congregations. This has been done for many reasons. It gives the Minister a position of dignity which helps him in his work and gives him an interest and pride in his Church. It ensures that the one person who is held responsible for the failure or success of the Congregation shall be in a position to lead it. It also ensures that the one person whose living depends on the Church and the one person who cannot easily leave it at a moment's notice shall have more influence in its affairs than some casual member. Moreover it makes sure that at least one person who is connected with the Denominational organisation shall have a voice in all affairs. Presbyterianism has even gone so far as to give the Minister a power of temporary veto on any action of his Congregation of which he does not approve. This has been the salvation of many a Church, while it only gives the Minister power to restrain action till the wise judgement of a Presbytery may decide possibly against him. Having done this the Presbyterian System has taken steps to guard against any clerical authority by laying down that no Minister shall decide any Congregational matter by his own authority. Whatever our opinions on the matter may be the system is generally regarded as the finest in the world and it has been copied in its main features even in the Episcopalian Churches.

We have made some improvements on the system to which much of our progress in recent years may or may not be due. We have given up the power of veto but it is still laid down in the Code of the Remonstrant Synod that the Minister has a right to be Chairman and our present Code says, that Chairmen shall be elected except in the case of Sessions and Committees. It is true that in some of the Congregations which should be an example to us and the community of respect for law and order, this rule is not observed. In some Congregations of the Remonstrant Synod the Minister never has taken the Chair and the printed reports of their Annual Meetings in the Press have aroused interest amongst our orthodox brethren and led them to question our right to call ourselves Presbyterians. In other Congregations outside the Remonstrant Synod Committees now elect their Chairmen in open violation of the written Code. In still another Congregation we have the spectacle which would be humourous if it were not tragic of a Committee which has called a Minister to save them under most difficult circumstances, solemly discussing whether he shall have any official place amongst them at all, and it is rumoured that that question is almost the only one in which some members of the Congregation have taken the slightest interest in many years.

Though these things are so the majority of us prefer to adhere to a system which has worked so well elsewhere, even in Churches where there are as able laymen and no more able Ministers than in our own.

However I write to point out that under the Presbyterian System in all but this, Laymen have equal rights with Ministers. A Layman may be Moderator of Presbytery and Moderator of the entire Church. In the case of Presbyteries there are certain complications with regard to the marriage laws which require us to be fully Presbyterian whether we will or no. But by an oversight which may be turned to advantage here, the Moderator of the Church has no power to grant Special Licences.

I suggest therefore that it would be an excellent thing if a Layman were called to the highest office which we have amongst us. Nothing but good could come of such an experiment which is no novelty in other Presbyterian Churches. Although it is in our Churches alone amongst the Denominations that the position of Ministers is questioned, it is a remarkable thing that it is exactly in our Churches that it is difficult for us to find Laymen to undertake the very work that they are most able to undertake. A Lay Moderator might arouse considerable Lay interest. Moreover if the Synod is unable to confirm the position of Ministers amongst us quite a number of Ministers will undoubtedly feel that it would be entirely out of place for them to carry on much of the work they do at present and will gladly help to make our Denomination an organisation in which their work will be entirely confined to what are called spiritual matters. More activity will be required on the part of Laymen in the future and it is to be hoped that those who are most active in establishing this new

system of Church Government will be the first to undertake the responsibility of carrying it on.

I suggest therefore a Lay Moderator for 1937-8. There are Ministers amongst us whom we should be pleased to honour but, I think that there is not one of them but whom will gladly give way. Strange as it may seem to some the one desire of our Ministers is to get more and more Laymen to work in our Organisations.—Yours truly,

A. L. AGNEW.

TEMPERANCE RALLY.

A gathering of young people and of others was held in the Lecture Hall of the York Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation on Friday evening, January 22nd. The meeting was organised by the Temperance Committee. In spite of the unfavourable weather, which made the attendance of country friends impossible, there was a representative audience.

The chair was occupied by the Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A., and a most enjoyable time was spent in listening to Dr. A. L. Agnew who, with great eloquence, decribed Russia, and threw on the screen pictures of interesting buildings and people in that much-discussed land. Russian methods of fighting intemperance were detailed, and it was shown that the frontal attack did not find so much favour as the indirect assault. Drunkenness was less seldom seen than at home, and the toper was made to feel that he was not wanted. Time passed so quickly under the spell of the eloquent lecturer that it was found that the hour was too late for the Conference, which, it was hoped, might be held at the close. Before leaving everybody was hospitably entertained to a sumptuous tea.

Ballyhemlin—The distribution of prizes, by F. M. Allen, Esq., Nunsquarter, took place in the Session Room, on Sunday, January 3rd. About three dozen books were distributed.

March, 1937, number published on the **Fourth** Saturday of February. Copy should be in before February **20th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

Moneyrea.—The Xmas Party in connection with the Day School and the Sunday School was held on Saturday evening, December 19th, in the Lyttle Memorial School. The scholars were entertained to tea from 6 o'clock, the adults coming later at 7 o'clock. At 8 o'clock began the programme of the evening. The different classes contributed excellent items, which were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, and the teachers and Mr. Stewart deserve high praise for their good work in preparation. The items were:— Seniors sang in chorus "The Mermaid," "A-roving," "I'm Seventeen Come Sunday," "The Maid of the Sweet Brown Knowe," "An Even' Song," "O Sleep, My Baby." The Middle Grade — "Some Folks Do," "Dabbling in the Dew," "Sancy Sailor." The Juniors—"Dickory Dock," "The Naughty Hen," "London Bridge," "Three Mice." Recitations — Jeannie Matier, Jeannie Burgess, Mairie Bailie, Betty Johnston, Alex. M'Kibben, Ira Milligan, Robert Bailie, Mary M'Cune, Lucy Matier. Book prizes were presented to the Sunday School scholars for good attendance during the year. the distribution of which being made by Mr. Frame, the manager. A gold medal for full attendance for 10 years was presented to Bertie M'Cullough, and a silver medal to Andrew Lappin for five years' full attendance. A sketch entitled "Poor Ma-in-Law" was presented by the senior class of the Sunday School, whose performance was excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The characters were — Jeremiah Sniffins (a clerk), James Blair; Mrs. Mary Sniffins (his wife), Miss M. Strain; Clarence Jollyboy (Sniffin's chum), Bertie M'Cullough; Charlie Swankum (Sniffin's chum), Moore Fisher; Mrs. Lydia Milding (Sniffin's Ma-in-Law), Miss M. Lappin.

After a vote of thanks to the ladies who assisted at the tea-tables, to Mr. Hugh Frame, Mr. Stewart, Miss McCune, Miss Patton, the teachers of the Sunday School, and the young men who helped, had been passed, the party came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

REVIEW.

Nature Lyrics—G. H. Harold Johnson, 2/6. Basil Blackwell.

Poetry has ceased to be the reading of the multitude in these days when the worship of the stars in the sky has passed into the cult of stars on the screen, and the "horizons" with which most urban people are familiar are the decorated walls of picture houses. Then too, jazz and syncopated music, all the rage, have their equivalents in tortured and syncopated verse. The period we live in takes pleasure in suffocation and writhing. Clarity and Simplicity have gone from art in its most modern manifestations, and the kingdom is no longer open to those who become like little children. It is an age of sophistication.

What an escape, what a refreshment to take up these Nature Lyrics of Harold Johnston's, the fifth octave of his books of Lyrics, and be bathed in their joy and delight in the pure sweet presence of nature, to recapture the sunshine and charm of natural things, and feel their pristine strength. He takes us to the hills, and opens our eyes on the wide spaces, leads us in green pastures and beside still waters, with their healing touches that restore the soul, and gives us back again the glory and the freshness of a dream that is reality but has for so many of us been lost and forgotten. The unspoiled unstaled wonder and beauty, the "Solace and felicity" of nature are the constant note of these poems, singing its unfaltering way through this still sad music of humanity and always catching the sunlight, like a stream rippling along over the stones and through the tangles and beyond the shadows. Mr. Johnston has the vision which sees things intensely in rapt emotion, with the poets' eye and the poets' soul, as who has not again and again seen and felt them but witness his art and gift of translating the vision which is Communion into language which is poetry.

Like Shakespeare or Walt Whitman he has a large receptivity and there is no aspect or Element of Nature, no instrument in her orchestra which does not appeal to him and minister to his needs, wind, rain, mist, snow, cloud, sky and wild moor or desolate curragh, with no voice but that of peewit or curlew to give the supreme effect. He is in love with "the vast companionship of trees," and has watched the golden glory through their latticed windows:

> "To see the twilight through the trees,
> The myriad shafts of setting sun,
> May bring unquiet souls such ease
> As Sanctuaries have done;
> The sky is over all, and through
> the branches vestas run."

He has drunk in every mood and gesture of them, in storm and shine, and been satisfied, while all the many-hued and changing pictures of the sky have been to him "a solace and felicity." He is a child of the hills and sky.

> "I was cradled in the hills.
> And spaces nestled me."
> "Your lame dogs are not mine,
> Your hurry I call dying,
> Give me the windswept cloud,
> The sun behind a-flying."

This description of the Cuckoo, this "jolly vagabond" with its careless rapture of life and wicked manners is delightful, and "The Dandelion" is a poem of long fantasy.

> The Sun said: I will concentrate my light
> Upon a common flower,
> That when clouds veil from sight
> My awful power,
> There may be lesser suns for man's delight
> From hour to golden hour.—
>
> That's how the dandelion came to be
> Upon a hollow stem,
> Vintage of honey-bee,
> God's diadem:
> The sun became a wayside flower!—For me
> Gold of Jerusalem!

One would like to quote others but the reader must buy the book, printed and bound with such taste, and enjoy it for himself or herself. If there were any criticism to make it would be that even when he is touching "the hem of Nature's Stole, that robes the Deity" and bowing low in wonder at the epiphany of stars, Mr. Johnson can seldom forget himself and his own human tribulation of mood; his approach is often subjective like Robert Burns's, but that may only commend his Lyrics to many troubled souls in need of healing medicine and of a hand to give the cup. They will find such in Harrold Johnson who is one of our own ministers and has preached in the First Church, and will thank him for this new sheaf of songs he has lately harvested. We should like to end by quoting from his finely turned didication to another true poet, W. H. Davies.

> "You, who remain unspoiled,
> And have to act no part;
> Who shout no goods for sale
> And barter not your art,
> You see God face to face
> For you are poor in heart."

R. Nicol Cross.

Progress of To-Day—Published at 15 St. James's Place, St. James Street, London, S.W.1. 3/6 per annum.

We do not remember having seen before a number of this very business-like and artistic magazine, which was founded and is directed by Dr. L. Lind-af-Hageby, one of the most eloquent lady speakers in the world to-day. The cover is blue and gold, and there is an abundance of interesting matter. The objects are indicated in the words "Revaluation of Life" and "Humane Education." It is refreshing to see after the lapse of so many years the name of Professor Dr. Max Müller, not this time the Sanskrit scholar, but Veterinary Director (of Munich) who writes on "Communication between Animal and Man through the Use of Number Language." Mrs. Sennett writes on the Power of Women. "We are enfranchised! We are as politically free as men, and we hold the balance of power because largely through men's misadministration and interminable wars, we are in a preponderance of 3,000,000, all of us free at the age of 21." Miss L. Lind-af-Hageby describes a lecture by Shrimati Rukmini Devi, the Hindu lady, now famous all over the world, "as one of the most beautiful conceptions of the value of beauty—here we have someone who teaches the pure gospel of compassion and beauty." We cannot sin without paying the penalty. Cancer is increasing enormously; the death-rate in diabetes has gone up, the diseases which vivisectional experiments are supposed to eliminate are prevalent. Dr. Robertson on Health Questions says: "I do not care what people say about spiritual problems. Saints are influenced by lack of sleep, by cold, heat, wrong food, drugs, alcohol and even by the motion of a boat; build purer and better bodies and devote attention to the question of mother and woman."

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OBITUARY.

Misses E. and M. Allen.

The Mountpottinger Congregation has to record the passing of two members whose connection was one of many years standing. During December the two sisters whose names appear above contracted bad colds which turned to pneumonia and despite medical care and assiduous nursing this proved fatal. Miss Elizabeth passed away on Christmas Day and Miss Mary on January 3rd.

The funerals took place on December 27th and January 5th at Moneyrea, the services at the graveside being conducted by Rev. F. Munford, B.A.

Much sympathy is felt for the surviving sister, Miss Nellie Allen who, as a Choir Member and a worker in the Sunday School, has rendered much useful service to the Church. E.R.J.

IMMORTAL MEMORY.

The greatest and the tiniest things
Alike, have Beauty as their dower.
It glimmers on the midge's wings,
Its rainbow shines in April showers.

Stars may grow dim in outer gloom,
The smaller creatures live their hour;
The goal of Beauty seems a tomb,
Life smiles and fades, as wilts a flower.

Nothing, from glory of new day,
To words of love by dead lips spoken,
From the heart's record pass away
The Cosmic memory is unbroken.

F. H. ALDHOUSE.

Oldtown Rectory,
Co. Dublin, Dec. 7th, 1936.

SUBSIDY FUND.

The Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscription:—

The Killinchy Congregation (per Miss M. S. McCormick	...	£0	10 0
All Soul's Congregation (per Miss Montgomery	... ...	0	14 0

Contributions should be addressed to the Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

KILDONAN—DR. A. McTOSH'S EXPERIENCE.

BY

REV. F. H. ALDHOUSE, M.A.

"Hey, lassie" I said, "its not very nice of you coming to a clergyman's room at such a like hour. Could you not knock, or something. But ma poor ween, you're greeting is it ill you are? I'll ring and rouse someone, for I'm a rather disabled man, I can't walk very weel. Come ma bairn, tell me your name and how..... good sakes!"

For like a puff of smoke vanishes there was nothing there! I scrambled up and searched the room, but there was nothing. There was no place to hide and the door was locked. Somehow I got to sleep again, not waking till my bath was announced. I came down rather late to breakfast.

"I hope you slept well, Professor" Lady O'Mara said. "Oh just so, so," I replied. "I had a gay strange dream. I thought I saw a wee girl, in my room, a bonny child but crying sair. I never had so vivid a vision before till the now."

Lady O'Mara and Sir Ulick exchanged glances.

"You had best tell Professor McTosh the legend" Lady O'Mara said.

"We'll move you to another room" she said to me.....

SIR ULICK O'MARA'S STORY.

"Doctor McTosh," Sir Ulick said, "my wife told you the tapestry room you slept in was in old days the Nursery. We must apologise for putting you in it but you will remember you wrote and asked for a room 'with little climb to it' and we both hoped the—the occurence you complain of had ceased years ago—it evidently has not."

"You say the child you saw had a white garment, cut short, did you notice anything else about it?"

"I didso" I said, "it seemed to cling to her almost as if it were wet."

"Exactly," Sir Ulick said. "As if it were wet!" I now have no doubt you did see unfortunate Nanno. Nanno who nearly led to Cromwell's troops capturing this ancient dwelling, Nanno O'Mara was the child of our ancestor, Sir Mosney, who lived in the time of that unhappy monarch Charles 1st He was a Royalist and after the Puritans had murdered the King, Ireland, unfortunately for herself, attempted to help Charles the Second. You know of the Massacre of Drogheda, and at Wexford, of places burned and families butchered. North County Dublin is still mountainous and lonely and in those days was also covered by woods, Kildonan was remote, and though raids were made on it by Cavalry they could not bring ordinance through the forest, and Kildonan never fell to them as you are aware.

"It was strongly garrisoned. Sir Mosney had particularly warned his family not to go beyond the walls, but he had one madcap child, his daughter Nanno. She wished to bathe in the lake which is half-a-mile from here. She was bathing wearing only her shift, when the Puritans caught her. They hurried her to the wall of the keep 'Verily thou Papist malignant' said Captain Praise-the-Lord Pim, 'I have here thy little rascal daughter, thine only child. Open thy gates to us, and beyond disarming thee, the Lord Protector will do no more than level thy fortifications. Refuse and this wench dies now before thine eyes. What sayest thou?'

"Sir Mosney threw then a dagger."

"There is the wherewithal for the deed, thou canting Kingslayer," he answered. "Dispatch her, and then come and take this stronghold if thou hast the hardihood."

"There is no doubt that Praise-the-Lord Pim would have killed the child there and then and perhaps it would have been better if he had; but when, after many threats, he placed the dagger her father had thrown down to her throat it was struck out of his hand by his Colonel, Hallelujah Pride."

"Now nay," the Colonel said, "innocent blood cries to God for vengeance. Avaunt and get thee from me thou man of blood."

So the Captain was ashamed, and the Puritans seeing the Castle too strong for them withdrew. Nanno was shortly afterwards admitted to the keep. Her father spoke to her and his words were quiet and showed no anger.

"I forbade thee to leave these walls daughter, is that not so?"

"Yes, father, oh forgive me." Nanno sobbed.

"I have no more to say, daughter. Go in, but betake thee to thy prayers."

Nanno ran in delighted. Those were stern days for children. She must at the very least have expected a merciless beating and imprisonment in her room on bread and water. Two days later it was known the Puritans were gone from the neighbourhood.

Sir Mosney summoned Nanno. She came trembling. "Thou art fond of the waters of the lake. The heretics are gone. So bathe there. Here are damzels who will see all

goes well with thee." Nanno went with two strapping girls, strangers. She bathed. The girls, by Sir Mosney's orders, held her head under the water till she was drowned—that was the end of Nanno. She was sunk by the half wild women with stones piled on her.

"I will have no traitor of my blood," the father said.

Those were savage, lawless times, nothing was done, but they say that a little dripping ghost is seen in the old Nursery at about the time of year of the tragedy, which was in the early days of May. The room never had the laughter or play of children in it since that evil day. I will have a Mass said for that poor child. Her punishment was severe if her fault was great. You and ourselves differ in religous matters, Dr. McTosh, but if it is even possible that it might help the little girl, you will agree I think it should be done."

"'Deed its weel worth the experiment" I said.....

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION.

(From an American Unitarian Minister)

Our Vital Unity with all men everywhere is the essence of the Christmas Tidings.

Rich and poor, wise and simple, strong and feeble, we are all joined together by some mystic.

Oneness whose source we may never know, but whose Reality we can never doubt.

The precious Life that is in you and me is the same in all.

When one suffers we all suffer.

When one tramps the streets in search for work, we all tramp the streets.

When one hungers for bread, we all hunger.

When one falls before the wintry blast, we all fall.

When one defrauds a fellowman, we all are implicated.

When one destroys a human life, we all share the guilt.

When one ascends the Throne of Happiness, we all receive its Crown.

We are our Brother's Keeper, because that Brother is but our Larger Self.

The mystic identity of the One with the Many is a profound Truth, most clearly divined by Hosea, Buddha, Jesus and St. Francis, but glimpsed by nearly all the great seers and prophets of Mankind.

In the joyous atmosphere of the Christmas season, may this Truth possess our Minds and Hearts.

Behold, thou shalt love thy Neighbour as Thyself, because thy Neighbour is Thyself.

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